

PRICE OF FOOD SOARS IN VIENNA

More than Fifty Arrests
for Secret Speculation
in Supplies.

CHILDREN TRAINED TO TILL FIELDS

Government Distributing Seeds
and Farming Machinery
to Aid Crops.

Venice, March 13.—Intelligence reaching here from Vienna shows that many articles of daily food have more than doubled in price in the Austrian capital since the war began, and that there has been a secret speculation in foodstuffs which has aroused the indignation of the people in both Vienna and Budapest and caused more than fifty arrests.

The government is doing all it possibly can to secure labor to harvest the wheat crop. To this end all school children from twelve to fourteen years of age have been excused from attendance at school and are being drilled for the work ahead of them.

Authoritative quotations of the Vienna markets disclose the fact that four new costs 8 cents a pound and that dried peas are 11 cents a pound, compared to 4 cents last July. Split peas now cost 15 cents and dried 40 cents a pound, which is double the price they were selling for when war was declared. Eggs bring 3 and 4 cents apiece, compared to their former price of 2 cents each. Beef is selling from 23 to 30 cents a pound, while pork brings from 24 to 40 cents. The assumption of horseflesh is steadily increasing. To-day it costs from 10 to 18 cents a pound, compared to 8 cents last summer.

Sugar, thanks to the best product, has risen very little. It now costs 8 or 9 cents a pound, which is only half a cent more than before the war. Bread has gone up considerably, and now costs from 8 to 12 cents a loaf. The quality leaves much to be desired, as it is only 50 per cent flour. The remainder is a mixture of meals made from corn, barley and potatoes. The Vienna bakers do not seem to have learned how to mix these ingredients advantageously.

Petroleum is quoted at 80 cents a gallon; it cost 26 cents last July. Salt and rice are \$10 a ton, and it is difficult to obtain at any price.

Next to her efforts in the field of war Austria-Hungary is now devoting her greatest energies to agriculture. An announcement put out by the government on the subject of labor says: "If we can obtain sufficient labor the next harvest is assured."

The war having robbed the country of most of its able-bodied men, tens of thousands of boys and girls have been released from the schools, and together with the married women they are being pressed into service. By a special decree of the Austrian Ministry all children between twelve and fourteen years of age are excused from school work, and this host of child labor is being organized systematically into an army. The older boys are acting as soldiers. The purpose is to send these young people out into the fields in order to secure the best possible results of the agricultural regions, where labor is most needed.

Certain peasant laborers in the rural districts not serving in the army have been unwilling to work at the old wages. They demanded higher pay. This made necessary legislation whereby they are now being compelled to labor at the old wages.

By distributing seeds and agricultural machinery the government has done all in its power to stimulate farming, and it is hoped that the next harvest will not be much below the normal.

It is alleged in both Vienna and Budapest that many refugees from Galicia who have money are employing their funds on speculation in foodstuffs. Not only are the people indulging in speculation as well as hoarding the necessities of the small storekeepers and the consuming public is regarded as a poor return for the shelter and hospitality offered to the tens of thousands of the half-starving fellow countrymen of these Galicians.

This trafficking in food supplies is carried on in secret, chiefly in the office houses. Through agents sent to the provinces large stores of food are bought and retailed at exorbitant prices to storekeepers. As these agents were carrying on business without proper trade licenses they are being prosecuted.

GERMANY HAS FOOD, AMERICAN SAYS

No Shortage and Cheaper than
Before War, Declares Hagen-
beck's Representative.

John Miller, an American, who has lived eight years in Hamburg, and is interested with the Hagenbecks in an ostrich farm near that city, arrived here last night from Copenhagen, on the Scandinavian-American steamship Ocea. He said that everything in Hamburg was cheaper now than before the war, and there is not even the slightest suggestion of a shortage of food. Before the war started the restaurants and cafes closed promptly at midnight, but now they remained open until 2 a. m.

"I have every confidence in the success of Germany in this war," he said. "The people are determined and united to fight the enemy to the very last, and with Germany's remarkable organization and determination I know she will see the great war through. Every inch of ground in the empire will be under our flag this year. If a land owner, no matter how small the parcel may be, complains that he cannot cultivate because his horses and help have been taken from him, the government immediately guarantees him the seeds and help necessary to plant a crop."

Mr. Miller said he had assisted the American Consul in Hamburg for six weeks in the work of the consulate. The Ocea II was stopped off the north coast of Scotland by the converted cruiser Cedric, of the White Star Line, and was permitted later to proceed.

Captain Hempel said he heard the "S O S" call of the burning French liner La Touraine when about two days' steaming away from her. He altered his course to go to her assistance and had proceeded about 200 miles out of his way when he got a message from the Rotterdam saying she was standing by.

Municipal Jobs Reserved for Disabled Parisians

Paris, March 13.—The Paris Municipal Council has decided to reserve for mutilated soldiers and widows of soldiers killed in the present war all the posts in the city departments that they are physically capable of filling.

The newspaper kiosks in the streets and public places, flower and candy stalls, street vending privileges, medals and licenses for the sale of postcards and illustrated periodicals in the streets, the posts of ca. station keepers, the management of public lavatories and the posts of concierges in city buildings are also to be reserved for the soldiers.

FEARS OF FAMINE GROW IN GERMANY

Housewives Being Mobilized and Taught Strict Economy.

By GORDON GORDON-SMITH.
Basle, Feb. 27.—There is no longer the slightest doubt that the anxiety in Germany regarding food supplies is daily becoming more acute. In spite of the fact that it is increasingly difficult for neutrals to circulate in Germany and that the military cordon on the frontier is daily being drawn tighter, the reports that filter through to Basle are more and more pessimistic.

The gigantic problem of rationing a nation of seventy million souls is evidently taxing the official organization to its uttermost capacity. Regulation follows regulation and decree, decree. The whole administrative machinery, national, provincial and municipal, is working at high pressure.

Housewives in all cities and towns are being mobilized. They are being convoked to meetings where culinary experts explain to them how to prepare economical meals with the most unpromising materials. The "Kriegs-Kochbücher" (war cookery books) are pouring forth from every publishing house. They would already fill a library; all the newspapers print "menus" of meals which can be prepared from the simplest ingredients. Municipalities are arranging cookery classes to popularize the new culinary methods.

At Frankfurt-on-the-Main, evening classes are being held to show the utility of a patent cooking oven. A Stuttgart model "war kitchen" has been established, where free demonstrations are given daily. Bureaus are also established where housewives may go to receive advice on all points contributing to economy. The government has further engaged a staff of lecturers and demonstrators, who visit such villages as are unable to support the expense of a special bureau.

The new regulations by which bread can only be served out to people in possession of a bread ticket is proving a source of great worry to hotel and restaurant proprietors. These can only furnish bread to such of their guests as are holders of bread tickets. Guests in hotels have to waste hours of their time in procuring these. As the hotel proprietors have to keep a careful account of all the bread distributed, their addition to their usual bookkeeping causes much extra labor.

But German hotels and restaurants are not the only establishments that are being "wheeled into line" by the all powerful police. A "ukase" has gone forth that all the night restaurants in Berlin must now close at 1 o'clock in the morning, instead of being kept open till daylight. As many of these establishments only opened their doors at midnight, the present regulation spells "blue ruin" for them. The all powerful "Polizei-Präsident" of Berlin has also ordered that all "5 o'clock teas" shall be discontinued. These fashionable rendezvous of Berlin society are declared to be too frivolous, and not in keeping with the tragic epoch through which Germany is passing.

But a paternal government has an eye to everything. Though the spending of money on frivolous amusements is forbidden, the lieges are warned against any false economies. One of these is to forbid any attempt to save money on gas bills. Many people have taken to cooking on spirit lamps and burning oil for lighting purposes. This, the authorities declare, is a mistake. The manufacture of by-products of immense use to the army. The citizens of the capital are therefore discouraged from doing anything to reduce their gas consumption.

With the approach of spring, the question of field workers is becoming acute. With all able-bodied men between eighteen and fifty years shouldering a rifle, the problem of rural labor becomes daily more difficult. This is proved by the fact that the Italian government has before the war, authorized all school inspectors and rectors to accord leave of absence to all children of both sexes who are willing to work in the fields.

Another blow to German industry is the falling off of 50 per cent in the brewing of beer. This is little less than a national catastrophe. It is due to the decree requisitioning all the grain and flour in the empire. This includes barley, without which Munich will be unable to brew the beer which in the past has been a source of wealth to the Kingdom of Bavaria.

The decree issued by the Italian government forbidding the export of cattle and pigs, slaughtered or alive, is yet another blow to Germany. According to the Swiss-Italian convention, signed shortly before the war, Italy could forward in sealed wagons any merchandise she pleased without any customs examination by the Swiss authorities, or the payment of any duty. As a result of this thousands of Italian cows and pigs were daily poured into Germany from Italy. The prohibition order will close this source of supply to Germany.

At the same time the Norwegian government has issued an order forbidding the exportation of the raw material for manufacturing margarine. As the export of margarine itself was prohibited some time ago, this is yet another source of supply closed to Germany.

AID FOR CASUAL WORKERS

They Will Decide Disposal of
How's \$250,000 Legacy.

St. Louis, March 13.—Those whom James Eads How calls "casual workers" will decide how he shall dispose of the \$250,000 legacy left him by his mother, he announced today.

At the national convention of the Brotherhood Welfare Association in Baltimore on April 10 How will submit a plan by which groups of the brotherhood in various cities may vote on the disposition of the legacy.

How suggests that the "casual workers" may establish a newspaper or build hotels in various cities, where the unemployed may find cheap lodging.

B. Altman & Co.

THE DISPLAY OF NEW STYLES

now being made in the Store's numerous departments includes everything that is smart in Women's, Misses' and Children's Wear; Men's Hats, Coats, Shoes and Furnishings; Young Men's and Boys' Outfits; Silks, Dress Materials of all kinds; Laces and Trimmings; Curtains, Upholsteries and Rugs for the Summer residence; and large assortments of Sports Goods and Travel Necessaries.

Women's Cotton & Linen Dresses FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY

For the Spring season and the warm days later, B. Altman & Co. have provided an interesting assortment of the most fetching models, principally in dainty, youthful styles.

Many effective combinations are included.

Exclusive Designs in Fine Paris-made Lingerie

figure very prominently in the interesting collection of Women's dainty imported Undergarments now being shown.

Some really beautiful examples of fine needlecraft are here to be found, incorporating exquisite embroidery and materials of cobwebby fineness with the latest designs evolved by the Parisian creators. Among them, shown in the regular stock at the prices quoted, are the following:

Bridal sets . . . \$45.00 to 750.00
Nightrobes . . . 25.00 to 295.00
Chemises . . . 10.50 to 90.00

Petticoats, Corset Covers and Combination
Garments at prices in proportion.

An Exceptional Sale of Spring Suitings

specially priced for to-morrow at

\$1.45 per yard

will comprise Homespuns and Tweeds of excellent qualities, 54 inches wide, in the fashionable brown, green, sand, blue and tan mixtures.

An Unusual Sale in the Dress Goods Department to-morrow will consist of

Semi-made Sports Skirts

made of English covert cloth in the smart brown or green mixtures, specially priced at . . . \$6.50

Covert cloth to match, for coats, may be obtained in the same Department at . . . per yard \$2.75

Semi-made Sports Skirts of black, white or navy blue serge, of shepherd's check in black-and-white, or of homespun in tan or old blue, are offered . . . at \$4.75

All of these Skirts are made on the new circular lines, with flare at the hem and a patch pocket at each side of the front. The side seams are left open to facilitate adjustment to individual measurements.

All Charged or Paid Purchases (including heavy and bulky shipments) will be forwarded Free of Charge, by mail, express or freight, to any point in the United States. The methods of shipment are optional with B. Altman & Co. and no discounts are allowed.

Thirty-fourth Street

Spring Fashions FOR MISSES AND THE YOUNGER SET

in Street and Evening Gowns,
Tailor-made Suits and Coats

are displayed on the Second Floor

Confirmation Dresses

The Lace Department

The new assortment of Fine Imported Laces, now being shown, is of more than ordinary interest in view of Fashion's present demand for the lavish use of lace as trimming.

This collection includes all the latest and most effective designs in laces, many of which have been chosen by the fashion creators of Europe and America for the adornment of their model gowns. Especially worthy of notice are the Chantilly Lace Sets, which include the full skirt flounces now in vogue; and the new Fillet Laces, in hand- and machine-made varieties.

Belgian Real Laces are shown in an interesting selection of Bridal Sets, Veils, etc., many of which are marked at prices far below their real worth.

Sheer White Lingerie Fabrics (25,000 Yards)

suitable for Blouses, Summer Dresses, Undergarments, etc., will be placed on sale to-morrow at unusually low prices.

SOFT-FINISH NAINSOOK (10 yards in box)
39 inches wide . . . per box \$1.75
40 inches wide . . . per box 1.95

SOFT-FINISH CAMBRIC (10 yards in box)
42 inches wide . . . per box \$2.45 & 2.65

SOFT-FINISH LONGCLOTH
36-inch, per piece of 10 yards . . . \$1.60
42-inch, per piece of 10 yards . . . 1.75

FANCY CREPE VOILE
American-made, 34-inch . . . per yard 21c.
Imported, 36-inch . . . per yard 38c.

The above materials are in white only.

An Important Offering of Sterling Silverware

will be a drawing feature to-morrow in the Madison Avenue section of the First Floor, affording an opportunity to purchase really desirable articles for personal use or presentation purposes at remarkable price advantages.

Betty Tea Sets of Lenox china, with decoration of sterling silver deposit, per set \$9.75

Sterling Silver Bud Vases
at . . . \$3.75, 4.50, 5.75 & 6.75

Sterling Silver Candlesticks
per pair . . . \$4.00 & 6.00

Sterling Silver Bon-bon Dishes, pierced, 4.75
Sterling Silver Call Bells . . . at 2.00

Marmalade Jars of engraved glass, with sterling silver cover and spoon, complete at . . . \$1.50

Fifth Avenue-Madison Avenue, New York

Thirty-fifth Street

Infants' Fine Imported Garments (Hand-made and Hand-embroidered)

are shown in most interesting variety in the semi-private Layette Room, on the Second Floor. Here are assembled the various little garments essential to the baby's complete outfitting, all inexpressibly dainty, yet embodying the practical ideas dominating the modern layette. Among the finer garments are the following, all in the regular stock at the prices mentioned:

Baptismal Robes . . . \$38.00 to 275.00
Long Cloaks of silk . . . 65.00 to 300.00
Bibs and Veils, each . . . 14.50 to 50.00
Crepe de Chine Wrappers . . . 22.50 to 38.00

Also
Silk Afghans . . . 42.00 to 135.00
Lingerie Pillow Cases . . . 14.50 to 45.00

Bassinets, with accessories,
at . . . \$90.00 to 1,650.00

Summer Floor Coverings for Country Homes

The new selections of Holland Rush Rugs, American Homespun Rugs, Wool Art Rugs and Fibre Rugs are now ready, very moderately priced.

Inspection is invited.

25,000 Pairs of Silk Hosiery for Men and Women

will constitute a Sale of special interest for to-morrow, at these prices:

WOMEN'S SILK HOSE
In black or white (with cotton soles and tops) . . . per pair 80c.

In black only . . . per pair 90c.

Extra size, in black only (with cotton soles and tops) . . . per pair 95c.

Of high-grade, lustrous quality, in black or white . . . per pair \$1.10

With hand-embroidered insteps and clocks; in black only . . . per pair \$1.50

MEN'S SILK HALF-HOSE
In black, white, navy blue, tan and gray; with cotton tops and soles . . . per pair 32c.
(Six pairs for \$1.75)

In black only, with cotton soles, per pair 55c.

In two-toned effects, embracing a large variety of color combinations; with reinforced hile thread soles . . . per pair \$1.35

An Extraordinary Sale of Summer Curtain Materials, to be held to-morrow in the Upholstery Department (Fourth Floor) will comprise

Over 11,000 Yards of Superior-quality Curtain Scrims

38 inches wide, in white, ivory and ecru; in a variety of plain and novelty weaves, including some with lace edging and insertion,

at 18c. per yard